

RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING DATA STRUCTURE FOR MANAGING REPRODUCTION OF VIDEO DATA RECORDED THEREON

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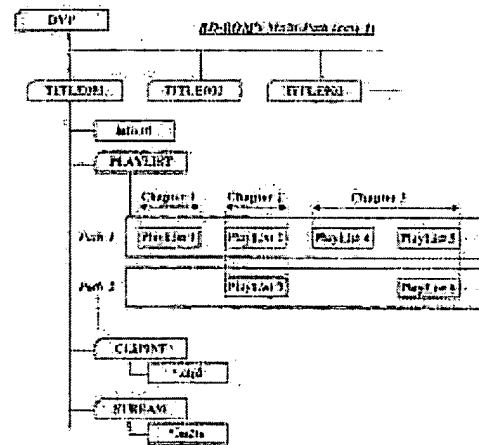
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The data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data recorded on the recording medium includes, for example, at least one title directory recorded in a title directory area of the recording medium. Each title directory includes at least one general information file. The general information file includes at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of video data recorded on the recording medium. The recording medium further includes at least one playlist directory area storing at least one playlist directory. Each playlist directory includes at least one playlist file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file. Chapter management information for managing reproduction of a title by chapters is recorded in the general information file or in the playlist files, and path management information for managing reproduction multiple reproduction path video data is recorded in the general information file or in the playlist files.



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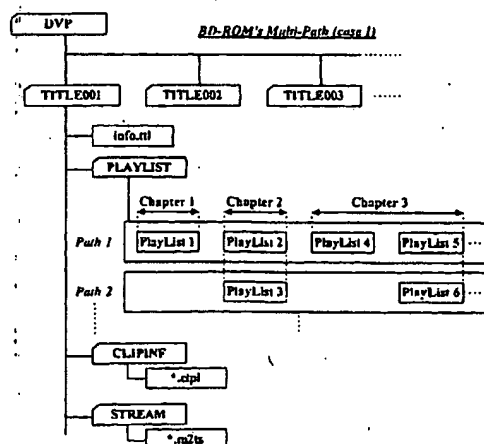
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(57) Abstract: The data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data recorded on the recording medium includes, for example, at least one title directory recorded in a title directory area of the recording medium. Each title directory includes at least one general information file. The general information file includes at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of video data recorded on the recording medium. The recording medium further includes at least one playlist directory area storing at least one playlist directory. Each playlist directory includes at least one playlist file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file. Chapter management information for managing reproduction of a title by chapters is recorded in the general information file or in the playlist files, and path management information for managing reproduction multiple reproduction path video data is recorded in the general information file or in the playlist files.

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DESCRIPTION

RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING DATA STRUCTURE FOR MANAGING REPRODUCTION OF VIDEO DATA RECORDED THEREON

5 1. TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data recorded thereon as well as methods and apparatuses for reproduction and recording.

10 2. BACKGROUND ART

The standardization of new high-density read only and rewritable optical disks capable of recording large amounts of high-quality video and audio data has been progressing rapidly and new optical disk related products are expected to be commercially
15 available on the market in the near future. The Blu-ray Disc Rewritable (BD-RW) is one example of these new optical disks.

Fig. 1 illustrates the file structure of the BD-RW. The file structure or data structure provides for managing the reproduction of the video and audio data recorded on the BD-RW. As shown, the
20 data structure includes a root directory that contains at least one BDAV directory. The BDAV directory includes files such as 'info.bdav', 'menu.tidx', and 'mark.tidx', a PLAYLIST subdirectory in which playlist files (*.rpls and *.vpls) are stored, a CLIPINF subdirectory in which clip information files (*.clpi)
25 are stored, and a STREAM subdirectory in which MPEG2-formatted A/V stream clip files (*.m2ts) corresponding to the clip information files are stored. In addition to illustrating the data structure of the optical disk, Fig. 1 represents the areas of the optical

disk. For example, the general information file info.bdav is stored in a general information area or areas on the optical disk.

Because the BD-RW data structure and disk format as illustrated in Fig. 1 is well-known and readily available, only a brief overview of the file structure will be provided in this disclosure.

As alluded to above, the STREAM directory includes MPEG2-formatted A/V stream files called clips. The STREAM directory may also include a special type of clip referred to as a bridge-clip A/V stream file. A bridge-clip is used for making seamless connection between two or more presentation intervals selected in the clips, and generally have a small data size compared to the clips.

The CLIPINF directory includes a clip information file associated with each A/V stream file. The clip information file indicates, among other things, the type of A/V stream associated therewith, number of source packets in the A/V stream associated therewith, and timing information of the source packets in the A/V stream associated therewith (e.g., on an arrival time basis (ATC) and/or a system time basis (STC)).

The PLAYLIST directory includes one or more playlist files. The concept of a playlist has been introduced to promote ease of editing/assembling clips for playback. A playlist file is a collection of playing intervals in the clips. Each playing interval is referred to as a playitem. The playlist file, among other things, identifies each playitem forming the playlist, and each playitem, among other things, is a pair of IN-point and OUT-point that point to positions on a time axis of the clip (e.g., ATC or STC basis). Expressed another way, the playlist file identifies playitems, each playitem points to a clip or portion thereof and identifies the clip file associated with the clip.

A playlist directory may include real playlists (*.rpls) and virtual playlists (*.vpls). A real playlist can only use clips and

not bridge-clips. Namely, the real playlist is considered as referring to parts of clips, and therefore, conceptually considered equivalent in disk space to the referred to parts of the clips. A virtual playlist can use both clips and bridge-clips, and therefore, the conceptual considerations of a real playlist do not exist with virtual playlists.

The info.bdav file is a general information file that provides general information for managing the reproduction of the A/V stream recorded on the optical disk. More specifically, the info.bdav file includes, among other things, a table of playlists that identifies the files names of the playlist in the PLAYLIST directory of the same BDAV directory.

The menu.tidx, menu.tdt1 and menu.tdt2 files store information related to menu thumbnails. The mark.tidx, mark.tdt1 and mark.tdt2 files store information that relates to mark thumbnails. Because these files are not particularly relevant to the present invention, they will not be discussed further.

The standardization for high-density read-only optical disks such as the Blu-ray ROM (BD-ROM) is still under way. An effective data structure for managing reproduction of video and audio data recorded on the high-density read-only optical disk such as a BD-ROM is not yet available.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

The data structure of the present invention may have an architecture that provides for managing the reproduction of at least video data by title. In one exemplary embodiment, a title directory for each title is recorded on the recording medium. Each title directory includes a general information file that identifies playlists recorded on the recording medium. Each playlist identifies playitems of the video data forming each playlist. In another exemplary embodiment, a single title directory is provided, and the single title directory includes a

general information file for each title.

The data structure according to the present invention may include chapter management information for managing reproduction of the titles by chapter. In one exemplary embodiment, the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated with each playlist identified in the general information file, where the chapter entry flag indicates whether the playlist begins a chapter. In another exemplary embodiment, the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated with each playitem in a playlist, where the chapter entry flag indicates whether the playitem begins a chapter. In another exemplary embodiment, the chapter management information includes a field of information in the playlist indicating the number of chapters and a time in the video data when each chapter begins.

The data structure according to the present invention may also include path management information for managing reproduction of multiple reproduction path video data. In one exemplary embodiment, the general information file includes information identifying the paths to which each identified playlist belongs. In another exemplary embodiment, each playitem includes information identifying the paths to which the playitem belongs.

The present invention further provides apparatuses and methods for recording and reproducing the data structure according to the present invention.

4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The above features and other advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates the prior art file or data structure of a rewritable optical disk according to the Blu-ray Disc Rewritable (BD-RW) standard;

Figs. 2 and 4 illustrate two exemplary embodiments of a recording medium file or data structure according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 illustrates an example of a recording medium having the data structure of Fig. 2 stored thereon.

Figs. 5-7 illustrate a first detailed embodiment of a file or data structure according to Fig. 2;

FIG. 8 illustrates a schematic diagram of an embodiment of an optical disk recording and reproduction apparatus of the present invention; and

Figs. 9-12 illustrate a second detailed embodiment of a file or data structure according to Fig. 2;

Figs. 13-14 illustrate a third detailed embodiment of a file or data structure according to Fig. 2;

Figs. 15-17 illustrate a fourth detailed embodiment of a file or data structure according to Fig. 2;

Figs. 18-19 illustrate a fifth detailed embodiment of a file or data structure according to Fig. 2; and

Fig. 20 illustrates a sixth detailed embodiment of a file or data structure according to Fig. 2.

5. MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

In order that the invention may be fully understood, preferred embodiments thereof will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

A high-density optical disk, for example, a Blu-Ray ROM (BD-ROM) in accordance with the invention may have a file or data structure for managing reproduction of video and audio data as shown in Fig. 2. Many aspects of the data structure according to the present invention shown in Fig. 2 are similar to that of the BD-RW standard discussed with respect to Fig 1. As such these aspects will not be described in great detail.

As shown in Fig. 2, the root directory contains at least one

DVP directory. The DVP directory includes title directories TITLE001 TITLE002, TITLE003, etc. for each title of audio and video (A/V) data recorded on the recording medium (e.g., BD-ROM). Each TITLE directory includes a general information file 'info.ttl',
5 a PLAYLIST directory in which playlist files (e.g., real (*.rpls) and virtual (*.vpls)) for the title are stored; a CLIPINF directory in which clip information files (*.clpi) for the title are stored, and a STREAM directory in which MPEG2-formatted A/V stream clip files (*.m2ts), corresponding to the clip information files, for
10 the title are stored.

The STREAM directory includes MPEG2-formatted A/V stream files called clips. The STREAM directory may also include a special type of clip referred to as a bridge-clip A/V stream file. A bridge-clip is used for making seamless connection between two or
15 more presentation intervals selected in the clips, and generally have a small data size compared to the clips.

The CLIPINF directory includes a clip information file associated with each A/V stream file. The clip information file indicates, among other things, the type of A/V stream associated
20 therewith, number of source packets in the A/V stream associated therewith, and timing information of the source packets in the A/V stream associated therewith (e.g., on an arrival time basis (ATC) and/or a system time basis (STC)).

The PLAYLIST directory includes one or more playlist files.
25 The concept of a playlist has been introduced to promote ease of editing/assembling clips for playback. A playlist file is a collection of playing intervals in the clips. Each playing interval is referred to as a playitem. The playlist file, among other things, identifies each playitem forming the playlist, and each playitem,
30 among other things, is a pair of IN-point and OUT-point that point to positions on a time axis of the clip (e.g., ATC or STC basis). Expressed another way, the playlist file identifies playitems, each playitem points to a clip or portion thereof and identifies

the clip file associated with the clip.

A playlist directory may include real playlists (*.rpls) and virtual playlists (*.vpls). A real playlist can only use clips and not bridge-clips. Namely, the real playlist is considered as referring to parts of clips, and therefore, conceptually considered equivalent in disk space to the referred to parts of the clips. A virtual playlist can use both clips and bridge-clips, and therefore, the conceptual considerations of a real playlist do not exist with virtual playlists.

10 The info.ttl file is a general information file that provides general information for managing the reproduction of the A/V streams for the associated title recorded on the optical disk. More specifically, the info.ttl file includes, among other things, a table of playlists that identifies the file names of the playlists
15 in the PLAYLIST directory of the same title directory. The info.ttl file will be discussed in greater detail below with respect to the embodiments of the present invention.

In addition to illustrating the data structure of the recording medium according to an embodiment of the present
20 invention, Fig. 2 represents the areas of the recording medium. For example, the TITLE directories are recorded in one or more title directory areas, the general information file is recorded in one or more general information areas within the title directory area, the playlist directory is recorded in one or more playlist
25 directory areas, each playlist in a playlist directory is recorded in one or more playlist areas of the recording medium, etc. Fig. 3 illustrates an example of a recording medium having the data structure of Fig. 2 stored thereon. As shown, the recording medium includes a file system information area, a data base area and an
30 A/V stream area. The data base area includes a title directory and playlist information area and a clip information area. The title directory and playlist information area have the general information file recorded in a general information file area

thereof, and the PLAYLIST directory and playlist files recorded in a playlist information area thereof. The clip information area has the CLIPINFO directory and associated clip information files recorded therein. The A/V stream area has the A/V streams for the various titles recorded therein.

Fig. 4 illustrates another data structure according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown, in this embodiment, the DVP directory includes a single TITLE directory. The TITLE directory includes a general information file *.ttl for each title of video data recorded on the recording medium. The general information files *.ttl are the same as the general information file info.ttl discussed above with respect to Fig. 2. As further shown in Fig. 4, the DVP directory includes a single PLAYLIST directory, CLIPINFO directory and STREAM directory. Unlike the embodiment of Fig. 2 where a PLAYLIST directory, CLIPINFO directory and STREAM directory were provided as sub-directories for each TITLE director, only a single PLAYLIST directory, CLIPINFO directory and STREAM directory is provided for all of the titles in Fig. 4. These directories contain the same information and files as described above with respect to Fig. 2, but do so for all of the titles, not just one title. As with Fig. 2, Fig. 4 represents areas of the recording medium, and Fig. 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the recording medium including these areas.

As alluded to above, video and audio data are typically organized as individual titles; for example, different movies represented by the video and audio data are organized as different titles. Furthermore, a title may be organized into individual chapters in much the same way a book is often organized into chapters.

As shown in Fig. 5, and as will be described in greater detail below with respect to Figs. 5-7, in one embodiment of the present invention, the general information file info.ttl for the data structure of Fig. 2 includes chapter management information for

managing reproduction of a title by chapters.

Because of the large storage capacity of the newer, high-density recording media such as BD-ROM optical disks, various versions of a title or portions of a title may be recorded, and therefore, reproduced from the recording media. For example, video data representing different camera angles may be recorded on the recording medium. Or, an adult version, young adult version and young child version (i.e., different parental control versions) of a title or portions of a title may be recorded on the recording medium. Each version represents a different reproduction path, and the video data in these instances is referred to as multiple reproduction path video data. It will be appreciated that camera angle and parental control versions are but two examples of multiple reproduction path video data, and the present invention is applicable to any type or combination of types of multiple reproduction path video data. As will be described in detail below with respect to Figs. 5-7, in an embodiment of the present invention, the general information file info.ttl includes path management information for managing reproduction of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium.

According to a first embodiment of the present invention, as illustrated in Fig. 5, each chapter in a title may be linked with at least one playlist, and the playlists belong to one or more reproduction paths. In the example of Fig. 5, the first playlist 'PlayList 1' refer to the first chapter, the second and third playlists 'PlayList 2' and 'PlayList 3' refer to the second chapter, and the fourth-sixth playlists 'PlayList 4', 'PlayList 5' and 'PlayList 6' refer to the third chapter. Also, Fig. 5 shows a first reproduction path is indicated by the first, second, fourth and fifth playlists 'PlayLists 1, 2, 4 and 5' and a second reproduction path is indicated by the third and sixth playlists 'PlayLists 3 and 6'. This is merely an example, and is not limiting on the path structure permitted by the present invention. For example, a

playlist may be associated with more than one reproduction path.

Fig. 6 illustrates a portion of the general information file info.ttl according to an embodiment of the present invention in greater detail. As shown, the general information file info.ttl includes an information field called 'TableOfPlaylists'. The playlist table 'TableOfPlaylists' indicates the length of the information field, and the number playlists in the PLAYLIST directory of the same title. For each playlist, the playlist table 'TableOfPlaylists' indicates the file name 'PlayList_file_name' of the playlist (which identifies the playlist), a chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag' and a path number 'Path_number'. The chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag' provides chapter management information by indicating whether the associated playlist is the start of a chapter. The path number 'Path_number' provides the path management information by indicating the path or paths to which the associated playlist belongs.

The chapter management information also, optionally, includes a chapter entry table 'ChapterEntryTable' forming a portion of the general information file 'info.ttl' as shown in Fig. 7. As shown, the chapter entry table indicates the length of this information field, indicates the number of chapters 'number_of_Chapters', and for each chapter, indicates the filenames of the first playlist 'Entry_PlayList_file_name' associated with the chapter. In an alternate embodiment, the chapter entry table is written in a file separate from the general information file 'info.ttl'.

While the embodiment of Figs. 5-7 has been described with respect to the data structure of Fig. 2, it will be appreciated that the embodiment of Figs. 5-7 is equally applicable to the embodiment of Fig. 4.

Fig. 8 illustrates a schematic diagram of an embodiment of an optical disk recording and reproducing apparatus according to the present invention. As shown, an AV encoder 9 receives and

encodes audio and video data. The AV encoder 9 outputs the encoded audio and video data along with coding information and stream attribute information. A multiplexer 8 multiplexes the encoded audio and video data based on the coding information and stream attribute information to create, for example, an MPEG-2 transport stream. A source packetizer 7 packetizes the transport packets from the multiplexer 8 into source packets in accordance with the audio/video format of the optical disk. As shown in Fig. 6, the operations of the AV encoder 9, the multiplexer 8 and the source packetizer 7 are controlled by a controller 10. The controller 10 receives user input on the recording operation, and provides control information to AV encoder 9, multiplexer 8 and the source packetizer 7. For example, the controller 10 instructs the AV encoder 9 on the type of encoding to perform, instructs the multiplexer 8 on the transport stream to create, and instructs the source packetizer 7 on the source packet format. The controller 10 further controls a drive 3 to record the output from the source packetizer 7 on the optical disk.

The controller 10 also creates the navigation and management information for managing reproduction of the audio/video data being recorded on the optical disk. For example, based on information received via the user interface (e.g., instruction set saved on disk, provided over an intranet or internet by a computer system, etc.) the controller 10 controls the drive 3 to record the data structure of Figs. 2, 5-7 or Figs. 4-7 on the optical disk.

During reproduction, the controller 10 controls the drive 3 to reproduce this data structure. Based on the information contained therein, as well as user input received over the user interface (e.g., control buttons on the recording and reproducing apparatus or a remote associated with the apparatus), the controller 10 controls the drive 3 to reproduce the audio/video source packets from the optical disk. For example, the user input may specify a title, chapter, and/or path to reproduce. This user

input may be specified, for example, via a menu based graphical user interface preprogrammed into the controller 10. Using the user input and the TITLE directories (Fig. 2) and/or general information files (Figs. 2 and 4), chapter management information and/or path management information reproduced from the optical disk, the controller 10 controls the reproduction of the specified title, chapter and/or path.

For example, to select a particular title, the controller 10 determines from the number of TITLE directories in Fig. 2 or the number of general information files in Fig. 4 the number of titles and requests the user to select one based on the number. As will be appreciated, the general information files may be augmented to contain more meaningful information (such as a title name) for the titles recorded on the recording medium, and this information could be provided to the user in conjunction with the title selection request. Once a title is selected, the playlist file names for the selected title are obtained from the table of playlists in the general information file for the selected title and reproduction according to the identified playlists is performed.

To select a particular chapter, the chapter entry flag for each playlist is examined by the controller 10 to determine the number of chapters and the user is queried on which chapter to reproduce. As with the title selection, the chapter management information may be augmented to provide more meaningful information regarding the chapters. Selection of a particular chapter is a selection to begin reproduction at the associated playlist, and reproduction begins with the associated playlist.

To select a particular path, the path numbers for each playlists are examined by the controller 10 to determine the number of reproduction paths, and the user is requested which path to reproduce. As with the title and chapter selections, the path management information may be augmented to provide more meaningful information regarding the reproduction path to reproduce. During

reproduction, only those playlists having the selected path number as one of their path numbers are reproduced.

The reproduced source packets are received by a source depacketizer 4 and converted into a data stream (e.g., an MPEG-2 transport packet stream). A demultiplexer 5 demultiplexes the data stream into encoded video and audio data. An AV decoder 6 decodes the encoded video and audio data to produce the original audio and video data that was feed to the AV encoder 9. During reproduction, the controller 10 controls the operation of the source depacketizer 4, demultiplexer 5 and AV decoder 6. The controller 10 receives user input on the reproducing operation, and provides control information to AV decoder 6, demultiplexer 5 and the source packetizer 4. For example, the controller 10 instructs the AV decoder 9 on the type of decoding to perform, instructs the demultiplexer 5 on the transport stream to demultiplex, and instructs the source depacketizer 4 on the source packet format.

While Fig. 8 has been described as a recording and reproducing apparatus, it will be understood that only a recording or only a reproducing apparatus may be provided using those portions of Fig. 8 providing the recording or reproducing function.

Figs. 9-12 illustrate a second embodiment of the data structure according to the present invention. As shown in Fig. 9, the data structure of the second embodiment is the same as the data structure of Fig. 5, except for the chapter management information. As with Fig. 2, Fig. 7 also represents the areas of the recording medium, and Fig. 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the recording medium including these areas. Fig. 9 illustrates that the chapter management information indicates chapters at the playitem level. As shown, in the first playlist 'PlayList.1', the first playitem 'PlayItem 1' refers to chapter 1, the second playitem 'PlayItem 2' refers to the second chapter and the third and fourth playitems 'PlayItem 3' and 'PlayItem 4' refer to the third chapter.

In this embodiment, the playlist files include the chapter management information. Fig. 10 illustrates a portion of a playlist file including the chapter management information according to this embodiment. As shown, each playlist file indicates a length of the file, and the number of playitems 'number_of_PlayItems' forming the playlist. For each playitem, a playitem information field is provided in the playlist file. Here each playitem is identified by the number of the playitem. As shown in Fig. 10, the playitem information field includes, in part, an indication of the field's length and a chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag'. The chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag' provides chapter management information by indicating whether the associated playitem is the start of a chapter.

The chapter management information also, optionally, includes a chapter entry table 'ChapterEntryTable' forming a portion of the playlist file as shown in Fig. 11. As shown, the chapter entry table indicates the length of this information field, indicates the number of chapters 'number_of_Chapters', and for each chapter, indicates the file names of the first playitem 'Entry_PlayItem_number' associated with the chapter. In an alternate embodiment, the chapter entry table is written in a file separate from the playlist file.

Fig. 12 illustrates a portion of the general information file info.ttl for the embodiment of Figs. 9-12. As shown, the general information file info.ttl includes an information field called 'TableOfPlaylists'. The playlist table 'TableOfPlaylists' indicates the length of the information field, and the number playlists in the PlayList directory of the same title. For each playlist, the playlist table 'TableOfPlaylists' indicates the file name 'PlayList_file_name' of the playlist (which identifies the playlist), and a path number 'Path_number'. The path number 'Path_number' provides the path management information by indicating the path or paths to which the associated playlist

belongs.

The recording and reproducing apparatus of Fig 8 operates in the same manner with respect to the embodiment of Figs. 9-12 as was described above with respect to Figs. 5-7. However, with respect to the embodiment Figs. 9-12, the chapter management information of Fig. 10 is recorded and used during reproduction to selectively begin reproduction at a particular chapter.

Figs. 13-14 illustrate a third embodiment of the data structure according to the present invention. As shown in Fig. 13, the data structure of the third embodiment is the same as the data structure of Fig. 5, except for the chapter management information. As with Fig. 5, Fig. 13 also represents the areas of the recording medium, and Fig. 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the recording medium including these areas. Fig. 13 illustrates that the chapter management information indicates chapters through the use of chapter marks. In Fig. 13, the first, second, fourth and fifth playlists 'PlayList 1', 'PlayList 2', 'PlayList 4' and 'PlayList 5' are associated with a first reproduction path and the third and sixth playlists 'PlayList 3' and 'PlayList 6' are associated with a second reproduction path. A first chapter mark is linked to the first playlist 'PlayList 1', second and third chapter marks are linked to the second and third playlists 'PlayList 2' and 'PlayList 3', a fourth chapter mark is linked to the fourth playlist 'PlayList 4', and fifth and sixth chapter marks are linked to the fifth and sixth playlists 'PlayList 5' and 'PlayList 6'. In this embodiment, each chapter is linked to one chapter mark, but the present invention is not limited to this implementation.

In this embodiment, the playlist files include the chapter management information. Fig. 14 illustrates a portion of a playlist file including the chapter management information according to this embodiment. As shown, each playlist file includes a playlist mark 'PlayListsMark' information field. The playlist mark

'PlayListsMark' information field indicates a length of the information field and a number of the playlist marks 'number_of_PlayList_marks' in the playlist. For each playlist mark, the playlist mark 'PlayListsMark' information field indicates the
5 mark type 'mark_type', the mark name length 'mark_name_length', the maker 'maker_ID', an indicator of the playitem on which the mark is placed 'ref_to_PlayItem_id', a time stamp 'mark_time_stamp', and a duration 'duration' of the mark.

The mark type indicates the type of mark. For example, when
10 a mark indicates the beginning of a chapter, the mark type 'mark_type' identifies the associated mark as a chapter mark. The mark name length 'mark_name_length' indicates the length (in bytes) of the mark name. The maker identifier 'maker_ID' identifies the manufacturer of the mark. The playitem indicator
15 'ref_to_PlayItem_id' indicates the Playitem_id value for a playitem on which the mark is placed. The time stamp 'mark_time_stamp' of the mark indicates a point where the mark is placed; namely, indicates a point on a time axis of the A/V stream of clips (e.g., ATC and/or STC basis) where the mark is placed.
20 The duration 'duration' indicates a length of the mark that start from the time stamp 'mark_time_stamp'.

Because the playlist mark information field provides the chapter management information, the chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag' of the first embodiment is not required.

25 Furthermore, in this third embodiment, the path management information is provided as described above with respect to Fig. 12 and the second embodiment of the present invention.

The recording and reproducing apparatus of Fig 8 operates in the same manner with respect to the embodiment of Figs. 13-14 as
30 was described above with respect to Figs. 5-7. However, with respect to the embodiment Figs. 13-14, the chapter management information of Fig. 14 is recorded and used during reproduction to selectively begin reproduction at a particular chapter. Here,

the controller 10 determines the number of chapters in a title based on the number of playlist marks identified as chapter marks, queries the user to select a chapter, and begins reproduction of the video data at the point indicated by the time stamp associated with the chapter mark of the selected chapter.

Figs. 15-17 illustrate a fourth embodiment of the data structure according to the present invention. As shown in Fig. 15, the data structure of the fourth embodiment adopts the data structure of Fig. 2. As with Fig. 2, Fig. 15 also represents the areas of the recording medium, and Fig. 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the recording medium including these areas.

As illustrated in Fig. 15, each chapter may be associated with a single playlist in the PLAYLIST directory. Also, Fig. 15 shows a first production path includes the odd playitems 'PlayItem 1, 3, 5, 7' from the first playlist 'PlayList 1' and a second reproduction path includes the even playitems 'PlayItem 2, 4, 6, 8' of the first playlist 'PlayList 1'. This is merely an example, and is not limiting on the path structure permitted by the present invention.

Fig. 16 illustrates a portion of the general information file info.ttl according to an embodiment of the present invention in greater detail. As shown, the general information file info.ttl includes an information field called 'TableOfPlaylists'. The playlist table 'TableOfPlaylists' indicates the length of the information field, and the number playlists in the PLAYLIST directory associated with the same title. For each playlist, the playlist table 'TableOfPlaylists' indicates the file name 'PlayList_file_name' of the playlist (which identifies the playlist) and chapter management information associated with the playlist. Specifically, the chapter management information is a chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag', which indicates whether the playlist is the start of a chapter. In the exemplary embodiment of Fig. 15 where each chapter is associated with a single playlist,

the chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag' is set for each playlist. However, it will be understood that the present invention is not limited to this embodiment.

The chapter management information may also include a chapter entry table 'ChapterEntryTable' forming a portion of the general information file 'info.ttl' as described in detail above with respect to Fig. 7.

Fig. 17 shows an exemplary embodiment where path management information, which is used for managing the reproduction of multiple reproduction path video data of a title, is written in the playlist file.

As shown, each playlist file indicates a length of the file, and the number of playitems 'number_of_PlayItems' forming the playlist. For each playitem, a playitem information field is provided in the playlist file. Here each playitem is identified by the number of the playitem. As shown in Fig. 17, the playitem information field includes, in part, an indication of the field's length and a path number 'Path_number'. The path number 'Path_number' provides the path management information by indicating the path or paths to which the associated playitem belongs.

The recording and reproducing apparatus of Fig 8 operates in the same manner with respect to the embodiment of Figs. 15-17 as was described above with respect to Figs. 5-7. However, with respect to the embodiment Figs. 15-17, the chapter and path management information of Figs. 16 and 17 are recorded and used during reproduction to selectively begin reproduction at a particular chapter and/or along a particular reproduction path.

Figs. 18-19 illustrate a fifth embodiment of the data structure according to the present invention. As shown in Fig. 18, the data structure of the fifth embodiment adopts the data structure of Fig. 2. As with Fig. 2, Fig. 18 also represents the areas of the recording medium, and Fig. 3 illustrates an exemplary

embodiment of the recording medium including these areas. As will be described in detail below with respect to Figs. 18-19, in an embodiment of the present invention, each playlist file includes chapter management information for managing reproduction of the
5 title of video data by chapter and path management information for managing the reproduction of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium.

As illustrated in Fig. 18, each chapter in a title may be linked with at least one playitem included in a playlist. In the
10 example of Fig. 18, the first and the second playitems 'PlayItem 1' and 'PlayItem 2' among playitems included in the first playlist 'PlayList 1' refer to the first chapter, the third to the sixth
playitems 'PlayItem 3' - 'PlayItem 6' refer to the second chapter, and the seventh and the eighth playitems 'PlayItem 7' and 'PlayItem
15 8' refer to the third chapter. Also, Fig. 18 shows a first production path is indicated by the odd playitems 'PlayItem 1, 3, 5, 7' and a second reproduction path is indicated by the even
playitems 'PlayItem 2, 4, 6, 8'. This is merely an example, and is not limiting on the path structure permitted by the present
20 invention.

The chapter and path management information are written in a corresponding playlist file structured as shown in Fig. 19. As shown, each playlist file indicates a length of the file, and the number of playitems 'number_of_PlayItems' forming the playlist.
25 For each playitem, a playitem information field is provided in the playlist file. Here each playitem is identified by the number of the playitem. As shown in Fig. 19, the playitem information field includes, in part, an indication of the field's length, a chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag' and a path number 'Path_number'.
30 The chapter entry flag 'Chapter_entry_flag' provides chapter management information by indicating whether the associated playitem is the start of a chapter. The path number 'Path_number' provides the path management information by indicating the path

or paths to which the associated playitem belongs.

The chapter management information may also include a chapter entry table 'ChapterEntryTable' forming a portion of the playlist file as described in detail above with respect to Fig. 11.

5 The recording and reproducing apparatus of Fig 8 operates in the same manner with respect to the embodiment of Figs. 18-19 as was described above with respect to Figs. 5-7. However, with respect to the embodiment Figs. 18-19, the chapter and path management information of Fig. 19 are recorded and used during
10 reproduction to selectively begin reproduction at a particular chapter and/or along a particular reproduction path.

Fig. 20 illustrates a sixth embodiment of the data structure according to the present invention. As shown in Fig. 20, the data structure of the sixth embodiment is the same as the data structure
15 of Fig. 18, except for the chapter management information. As with Fig. 18, Fig. 20 also represents the areas of the recording medium, and Fig. 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the recording medium including these areas. Fig. 20 illustrates that the chapter management information indicates chapters through the use of
20 chapter marks. More specifically, the playlist files include the chapter management information in the same manner as described in detail above with respect to Fig. 14. Additionally, the playlist files include the path management information in the same manner as described in detail above with respect to Fig. 17.

25 The recording and reproducing apparatus of Fig 8 operates in the same manner with respect to the embodiment of Fig. 20 as was described above with respect to Figs. 5-7. However, with respect to the embodiment of Fig. 20, the chapter and path management information of Figs. 14 and 17, respectively are recorded and used
30 during reproduction to selectively begin reproduction at a particular chapter and/or along a particular reproduction path.

As the sixth embodiment of Fig. 20 demonstrates, the different data structures for chapter reproduction management and

path reproduction management in the above described embodiments may be combined to form further embodiments of the present invention.

Furthermore, the embodiments of the present invention have
5 been described as applied to the data structure of Fig. 2; however, it will be appreciated that these embodiments are also applicable to the data structure of Fig. 4.

As will be appreciated from the forgoing disclosure, the present invention provides a recording medium having a file or data
10 structure that permits managing the reproduction of video data on a title, chapter, and or multiple reproduction path basis. Accordingly, the present invention provides a greater level of flexibility in the reproduction of video data than previously available.

15 While the invention has been disclosed with respect to a limited number of embodiments, those skilled in the art, having the benefit of this disclosure, will appreciate numerous modifications and variations there from. For example, while described with respect to a Blu-ray ROM optical disk, the present
20 invention is not limited to this standard of optical disk or to optical disks. It is intended that all such modifications and variations fall within the spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium, comprising:

5 a title directory area storing at least one title directory, each title directory including at least one general information file, the general information file including at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on
10 the recording medium and path management information for managing reproduction of the multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium; and

a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist directory, each playlist directory including at least one playlist
15 file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file, each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip of the multiple reproduction path video data forming the title.

2. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the path
20 management information indicates a reproduction path to which each playlist file belongs.

3. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the general information file includes chapter management information, the chapter management information for managing reproduction of the
25 title by chapters.

4. The recording medium of claim 3, wherein the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated with each playlist identifier, the chapter entry flag indicating whether a playlist file identified by the associated playlist
30 identifier begins a chapter.

5. The recording medium of claim 3, wherein the chapter

management information indicates which playlist files are associated with each chapter.

6. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein each playlist file includes chapter management information, the chapter management
5 information for managing reproduction of the title by chapters.

7. The recording medium of claim 6, wherein the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated with each identified playitem indicating whether the identified playitem begins a chapter.

10 8. The recording medium of claim 6, wherein the chapter management information indicates which playitems are associated with each chapter.

9. The recording medium of claim 6, wherein the chapter management information includes at least one playlist mark, each
15 playlist mark including a chapter identifier indicating a chapter associated with the playlist mark and a timestamp indicating a time in the multiple reproduction path video data when the chapter begins.

10. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein title directory
20 area includes the playlist directory area and the title directory includes at least one playlist directory.

11. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium, comprising:

25 a title directory area storing at least one title directory, each title directory including at least one general information file, the general information file including at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on
30 the recording medium; and

a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist directory, each playlist directory including at least one playlist file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information

file, each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip of the multiple reproduction path video data forming the title, and each playlist file including path management information for managing reproduction of the multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium.

12. The recording medium of claim 11, wherein the path management information indicates a reproduction path to which each playitem identified by the playlist file belongs.

13. The recording medium of claim 11, wherein the general information file includes chapter management information, the chapter management information for managing reproduction of the title by chapters.

14. The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated with each playlist identifier, the chapter entry flag indicating whether a playlist file identified by the associated playlist identifier begins a chapter.

15. The recording medium of claim 14, wherein the chapter entry flags are set such that each chapter corresponds to one playlist file.

16. The recording medium of claim 11, wherein each playlist file includes chapter management information, the chapter management information for managing reproduction of the title by chapters.

17. The recording medium of claim 16, wherein the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated with each identified playitem indicating whether the identified playitem begins a chapter.

18. The recording medium of claim 16, wherein the chapter management information includes at least one playlist mark, each playlist mark including a chapter identifier indicating a chapter associated with the playlist mark and a timestamp indicating a time in the multiple reproduction path video data when the chapter

begins.

19. The recording medium of claim 11, wherein title directory area includes the playlist directory area and the title directory includes at least one playlist directory.

5 20. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data recorded on the recording medium, comprising:

a title directory area storing at least one title directory, each title directory including at least one general information
10 file, the general information file including at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of the video data recorded on the recording medium and chapter management information for managing reproduction of the title by chapters; and

15 a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist directory, each playlist directory including at least one playlist file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file, each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip of the video data forming the title.

20 21. The recording medium of claim 20, wherein the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated with each playlist identifier, the chapter entry flag indicating whether a playlist file identified by the associated playlist identifier begins a chapter.

25 22. The recording medium of claim 20, wherein the chapter management information indicates which playlist files are associated with each chapter.

23. The recording medium of claim 20, wherein title directory area includes the playlist directory area and the title directory
30 includes at least one playlist directory.

24. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data recorded on the recording medium, comprising:

a title directory area storing at least one title directory, each title directory including at least one general information file, the general information file including at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion
5 of a title of the video data recorded on the recording medium; and

a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist directory, each playlist directory including at least one playlist file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file, each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each
10 playitem identifying a clip of the video data forming the title, and each playlist file including chapter management information for managing reproduction of the title by chapters.

25. The recording medium of claim 24, wherein the chapter management information includes a chapter entry flag associated
15 with each identified playitem indicating whether the identified playitem begins a chapter.

26. The recording medium of claim 24, wherein the chapter management information indicates which playitems are associated with each chapter.

20 27. The recording medium of claim 24, wherein the chapter management information includes at least one playlist mark, each playlist mark including a chapter identifier indicating a chapter associated with the playlist mark and a timestamp indicating a time in the video data when the chapter begins.

25 28. The recording medium of claim 24, wherein title directory area includes the playlist directory area and the title directory includes at least one playlist directory.

29. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data recorded on the recording
30 medium, comprising:

a title directory area storing at least one title directory, each title directory including a general information file, the general information file storing playlist identification

information identifying playlist files forming a title of video data recorded on the recording medium.

30. The recording medium of claim 29, wherein the title directory area comprises:

5 a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist directory, each playlist directory including at least one playlist file identified in the general information file, each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip of video data forming the title.

10 31. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data recorded on the recording medium, comprising:

a title directory area storing a single title directory, the title directory including at least one general information file,
15 each general information file storing playlist identification information identifying playlist files forming a title of video data recorded in the recording medium.

32. The recording medium of claim 31, further comprising:

a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist
20 directory, each playlist directory including at least one playlist file identified in the general information file, a playlist file identifying at least one play item, each play item identifying a clip of video data forming the title.

33. A method of recording a data structure for managing
25 reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data, comprising:

recording at least one title directory in a title directory area of a recording medium, each title directory including at least one general information file, the general information file
30 including at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium and path management information for managing reproduction of the multiple

reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium; and
recording at least one playlist directory in a playlist
directory area of the recording medium, each playlist directory
including at least one playlist file identified by a playlist
5 identifier in the general information file, each playlist file
identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip
of the multiple reproduction path video data forming the title.

34. A method of reproducing a data structure for managing
reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data,
10 comprising:

reproducing at least a portion of one title directory in a
title directory area of a recording medium, each title directory
including at least one general information file, the general
information file including at least one playlist identifier
15 identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title
of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording
medium and path management information for managing reproduction
of the multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the
recording medium; and

20 reproducing at least a portion of at least one playlist
directory in a playlist directory area of the recording medium,
each playlist directory including at least one playlist file
identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file,
each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each playitem
25 identifying a clip of the multiple reproduction path video data
forming the title.

35. An apparatus for recording a data structure for managing
reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data,
comprising:

30 a driver for driving an optical recording device to record
data on a recording medium;

an encoder for encoding at least multiple reproduction path
video data; and

a controller for controlling the driver to record the encoded multiple reproduction path video data on the recording medium, the controller for controlling the driver to record at least one title directory in a title directory area of the recording medium, each
5 title directory including at least one general information file, the general information file including at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium and path management information for managing
10 reproduction of the multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium; and

the controller for controlling the driver to record at least one playlist directory in a playlist directory area of the recording medium, each playlist directory including at least one
15 playlist file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file, each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip of the multiple reproduction path video data forming the title.

36. An apparatus for reproducing a data structure for
20 managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data, comprising:

a driver for driving an optical reproducing device to reproduce data recorded on a recording medium;

a controller for controlling the driver to reproduce at least
25 a portion of one title directory in a title directory area of the recording medium, each title directory including at least one general information file, the general information file including at least one playlist identifier identifying a playlist file forming at least a portion of a title of multiple reproduction path
30 video data recorded on the recording medium and path management information for managing reproduction of the multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium; and

the controller for controlling the driver to reproduce at

least a portion of at least one playlist directory in a playlist directory area of the recording medium, each playlist directory including at least one playlist file identified by a playlist identifier in the general information file, each playlist file
5 identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip of the multiple reproduction path video data forming the title.

37. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium; comprising:

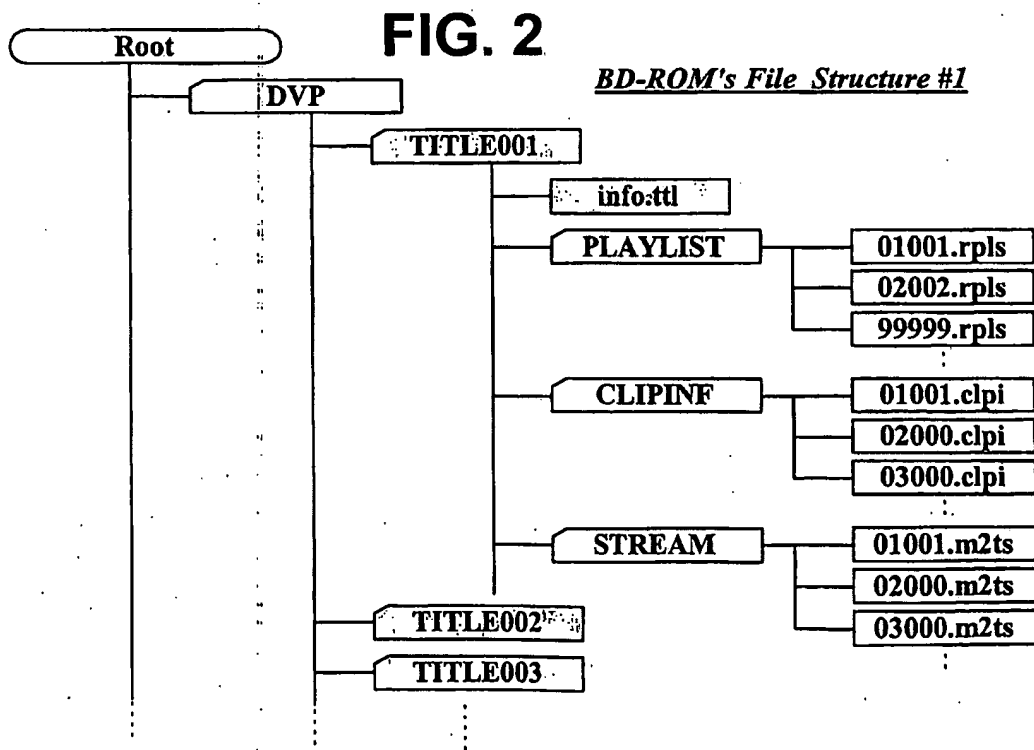
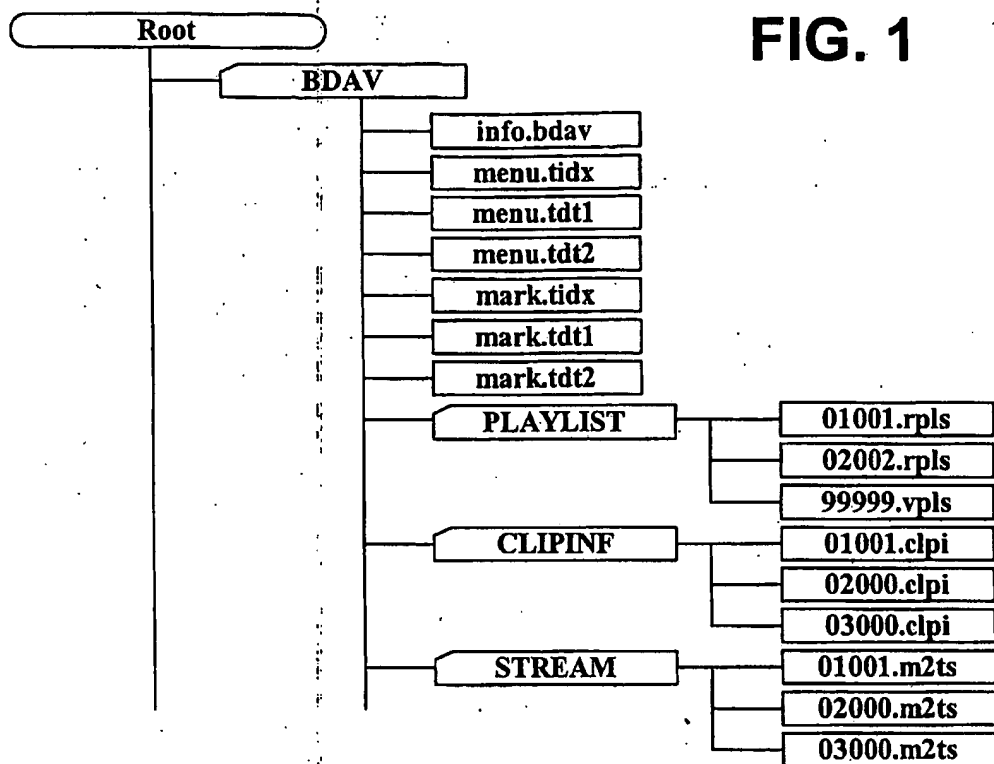
10 a path management area storing path management information for managing reproduction of the multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium, the path management indicating at least one playlist belonging to each reproduction path; and

15 a playlist area storing at least one playlist file identified by the path management information, each playlist file identifying at least one playitem, each playitem identifying a clip of the multiple reproduction path video data.

38. The recording medium of claim 37, wherein each playlist
20 file includes chapter management information, the chapter management information for managing reproduction of the title by chapters.

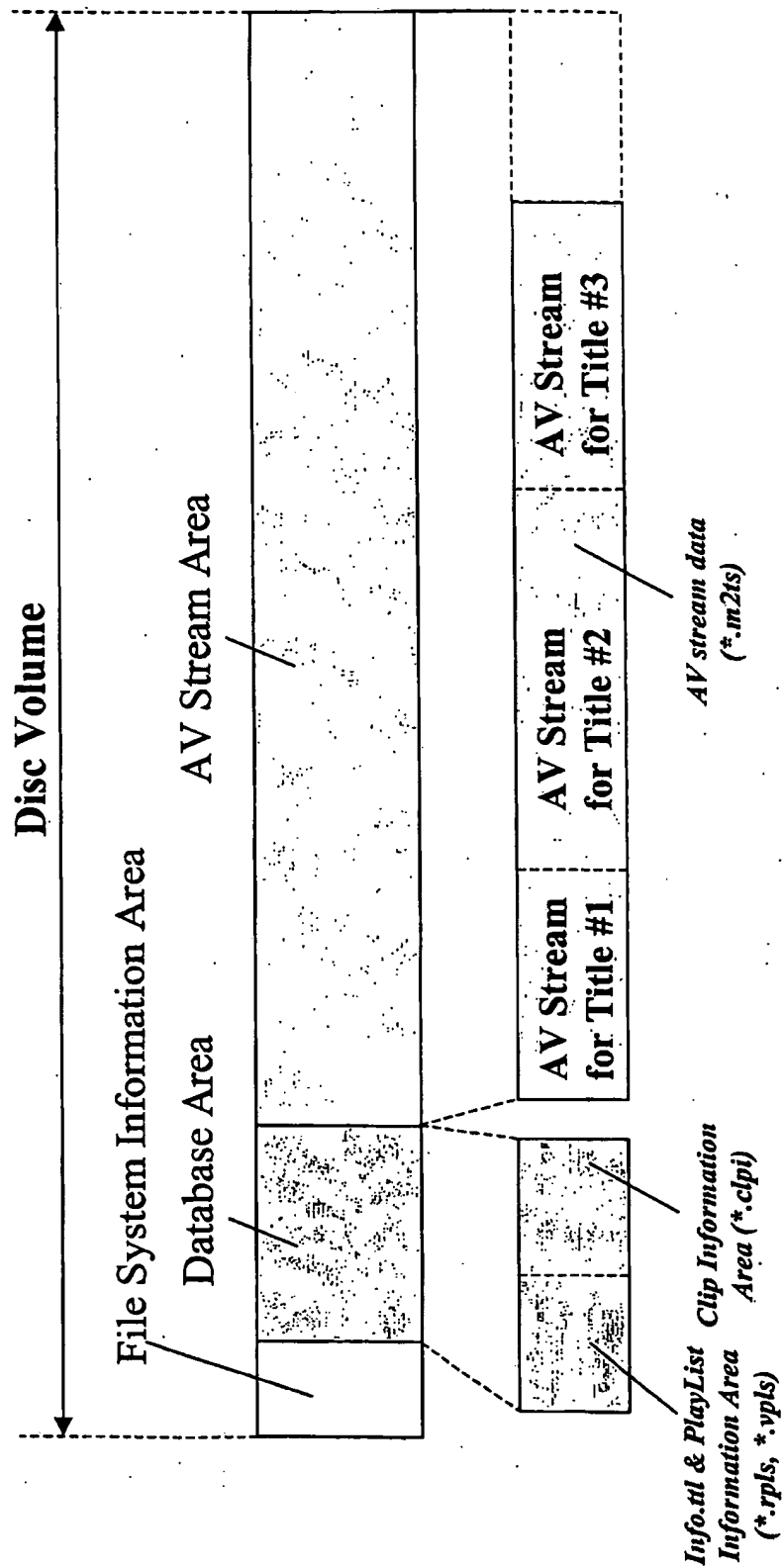
39. The recording medium of claim 38, wherein the chapter
25 management information includes at least one playlist mark, each playlist mark including a chapter identifier indicating a chapter associated with the playlist mark and a timestamp indicating a time in the multiple reproduction path video data when the chapter begins.

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FIG. 3



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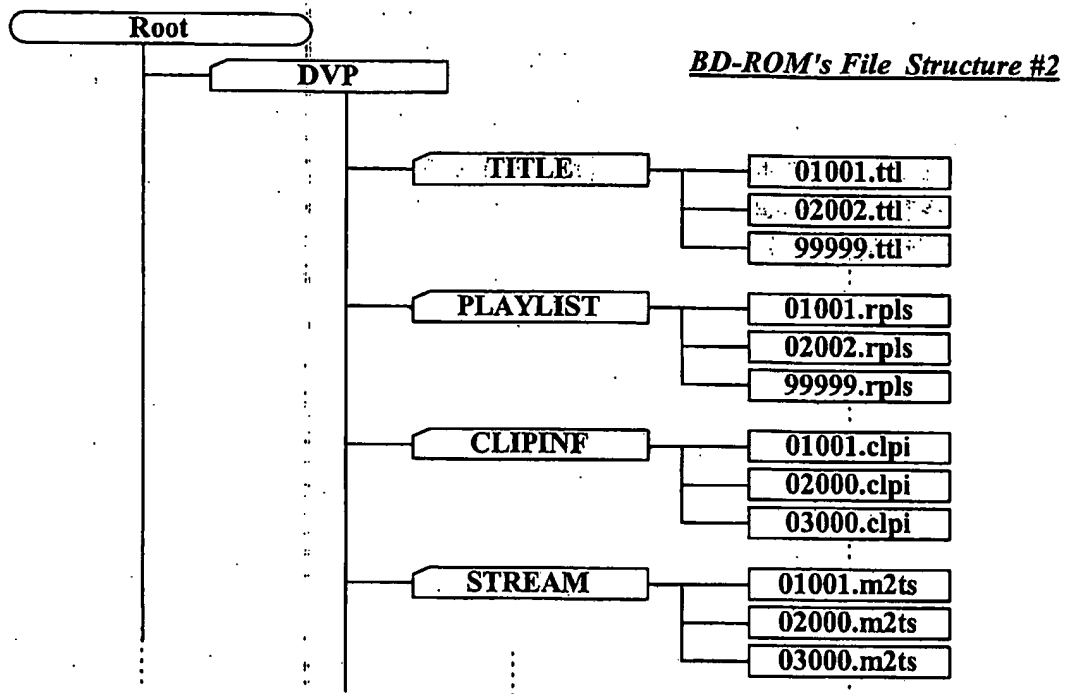
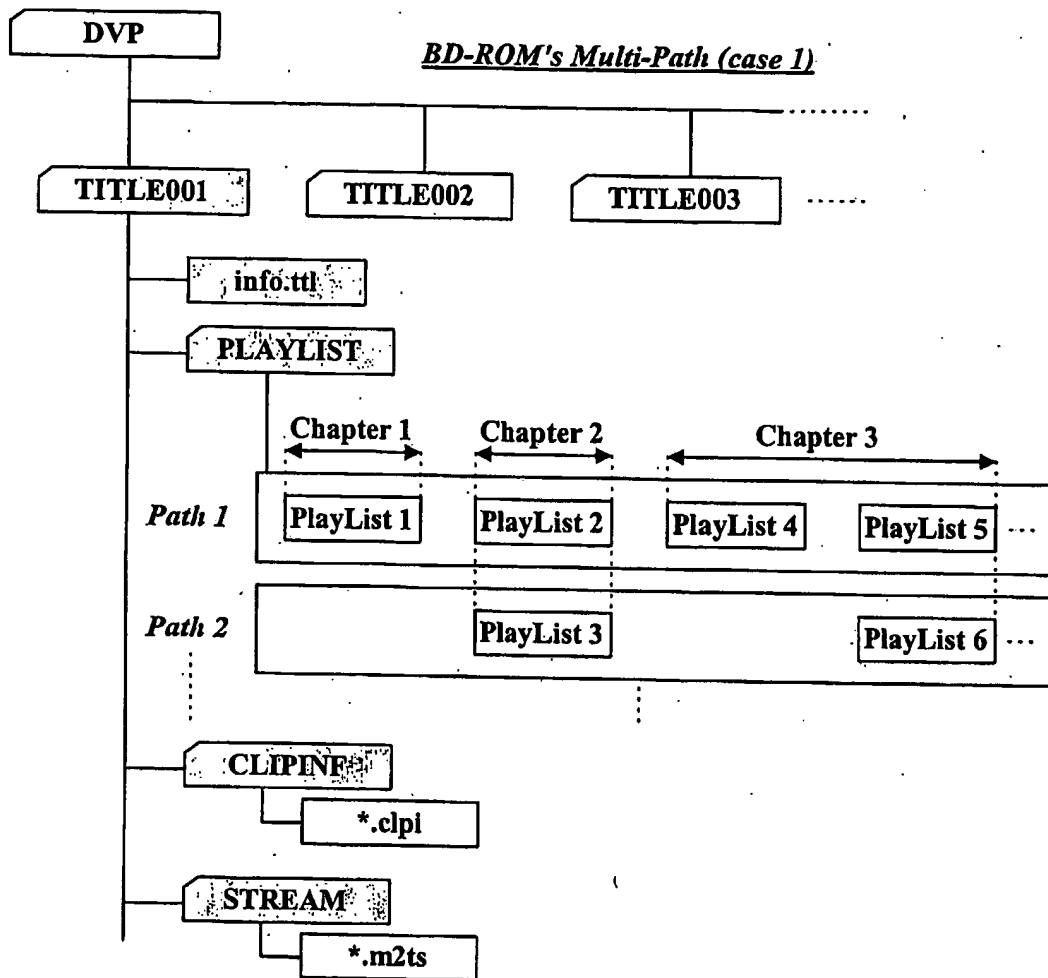
FIG. 4

FIG. 5

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FIG. 6*info.ttl (or *.ttl) - syntax*

info.ttl {
version_number
TableOfPlayLists_start_address
reserved_for_future_use
:
TableOfPlayLists(){
length
number_of_PlayLists
for(i=0; i<number_of_PlayLists; i++){
PlayList_file_name
Chapter_entry_flag
Path_number
}
}
:

FIG. 7

:
ChapterEntryTable(){
length
number_of_Chapters
for(i=0; i<number_of_Chapters; i++){
Entry_PlayList_file_name
}
}
:

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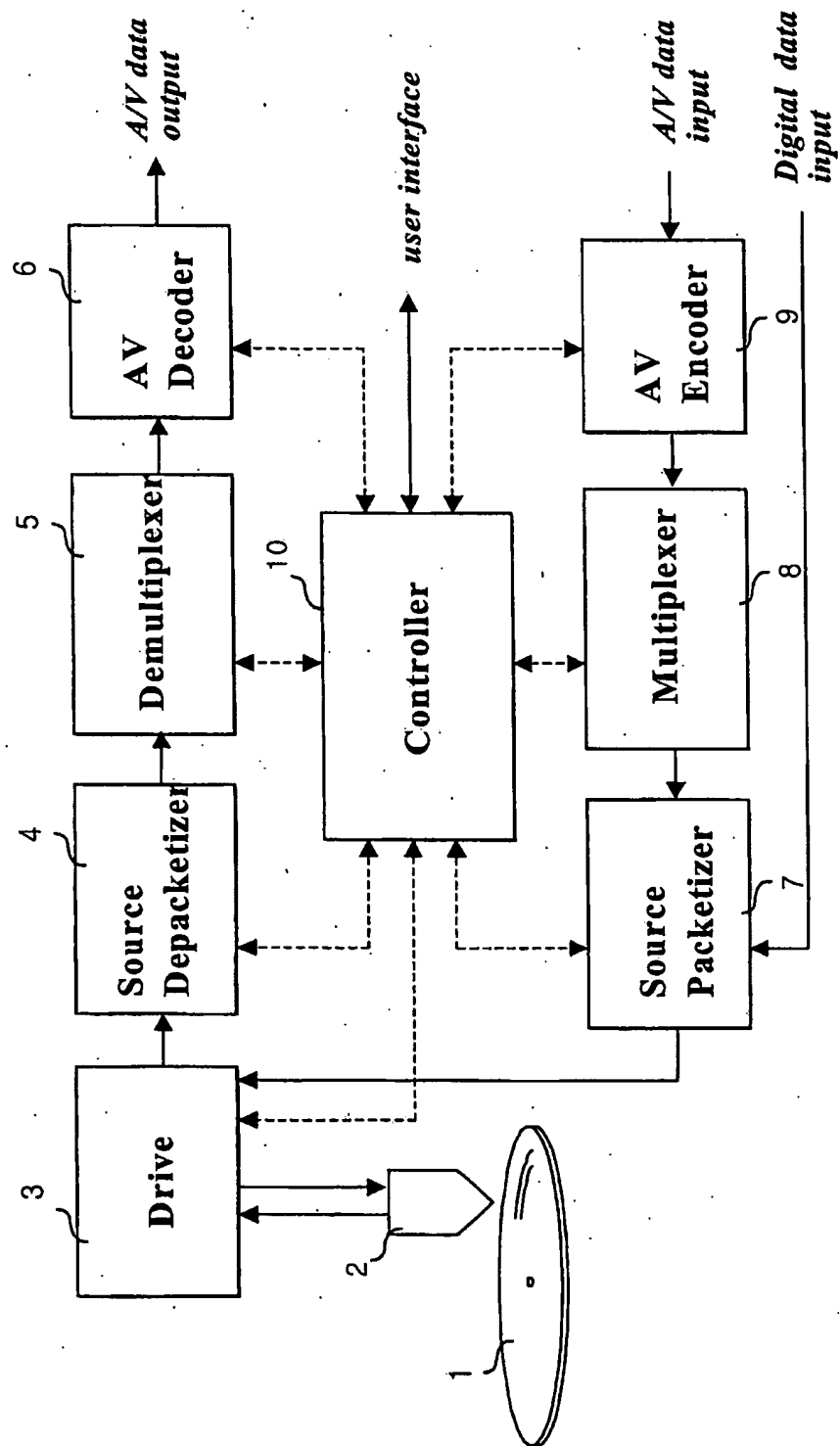
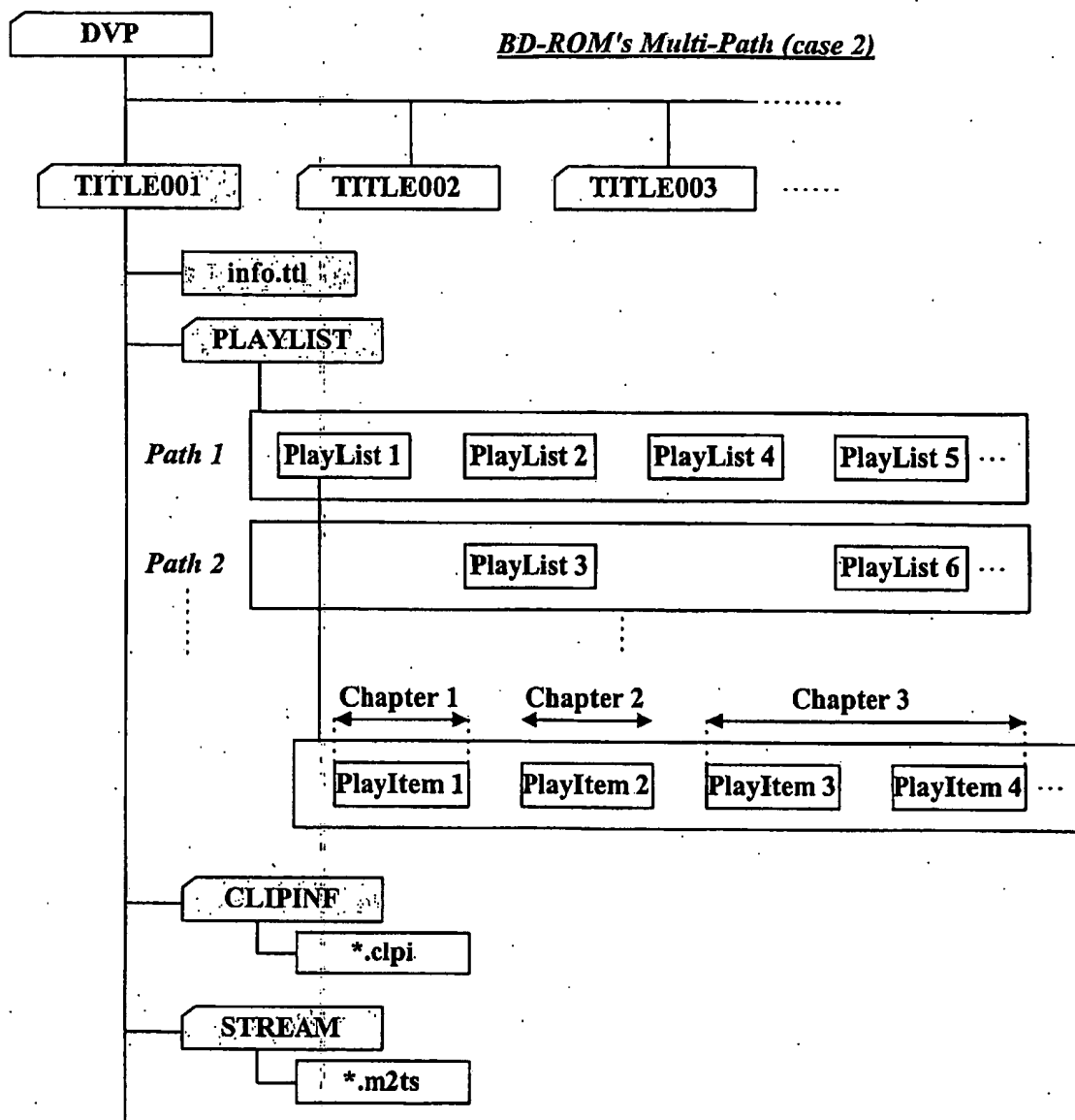
FIG. 8

FIG. 9



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FIG. 10**.rpls - syntax*

xxxxx.rpls {
version_number
.....
PlayLists(){
length
.....
number_of_Playitems
for(i=0; i<number_of_PlayItems;
i++){
PlayItem()
.....
.....
}
}

PlayItem(){
length
...
Chapter_entry_flag
...

FIG. 11

.....
ChapterEntryTable(){
length
number_of_Chapters
for(i=0; i<number_of_Chapters; i++){
Entry_PlayItem_number
.....
}
}

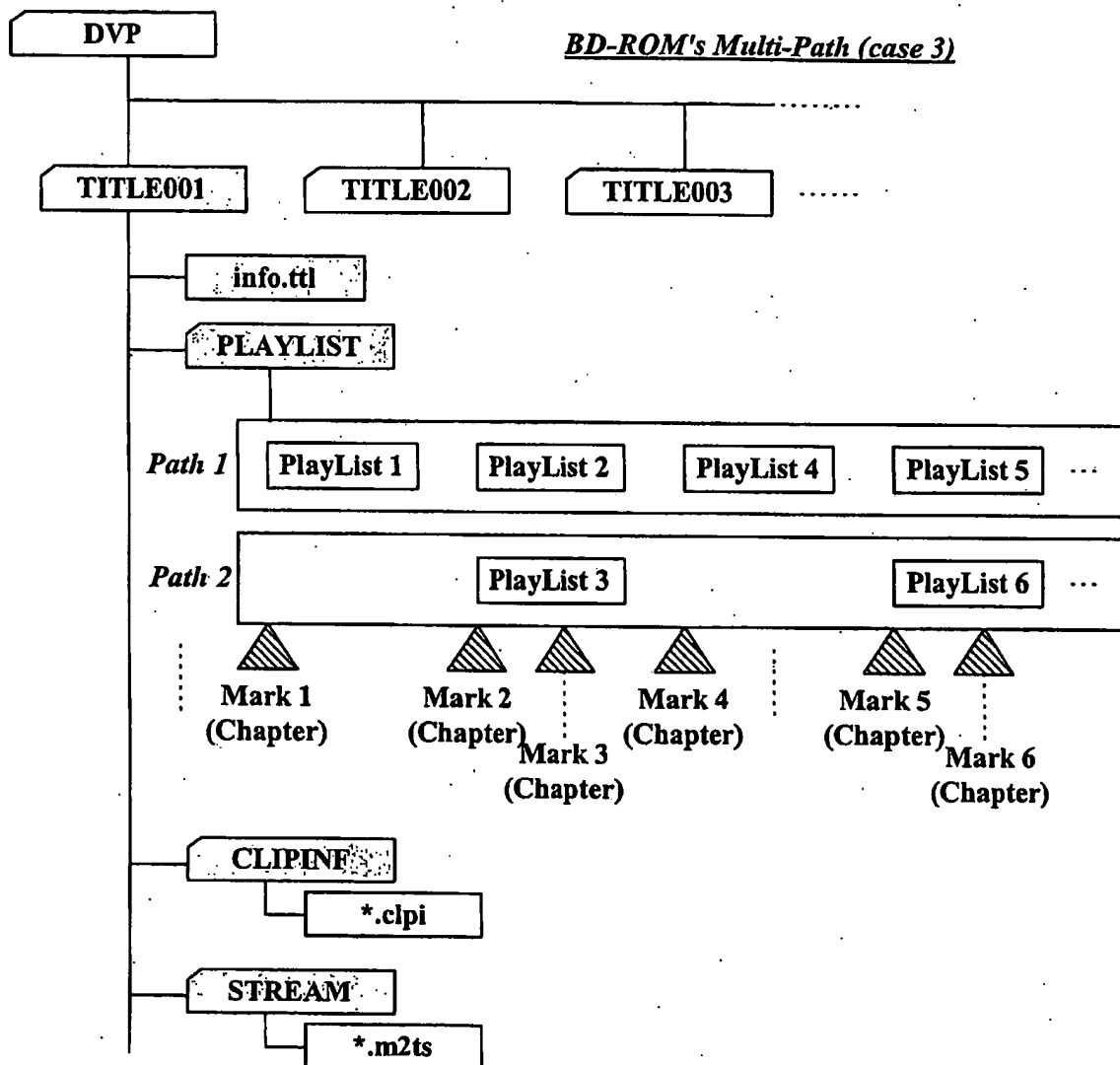
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FIG. 12*info.ttl (or *.ttl) - syntax*

info.ttl {
version_number
TableOfPlayLists_start_address
reserved_for_future_use
:
TableOfPlayLists {
length
number_of_PlayLists
for(i=0; i<number_of_PlayLists; i++){
PlayList_file_name
Path_number
}
}
:

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FIG. 13



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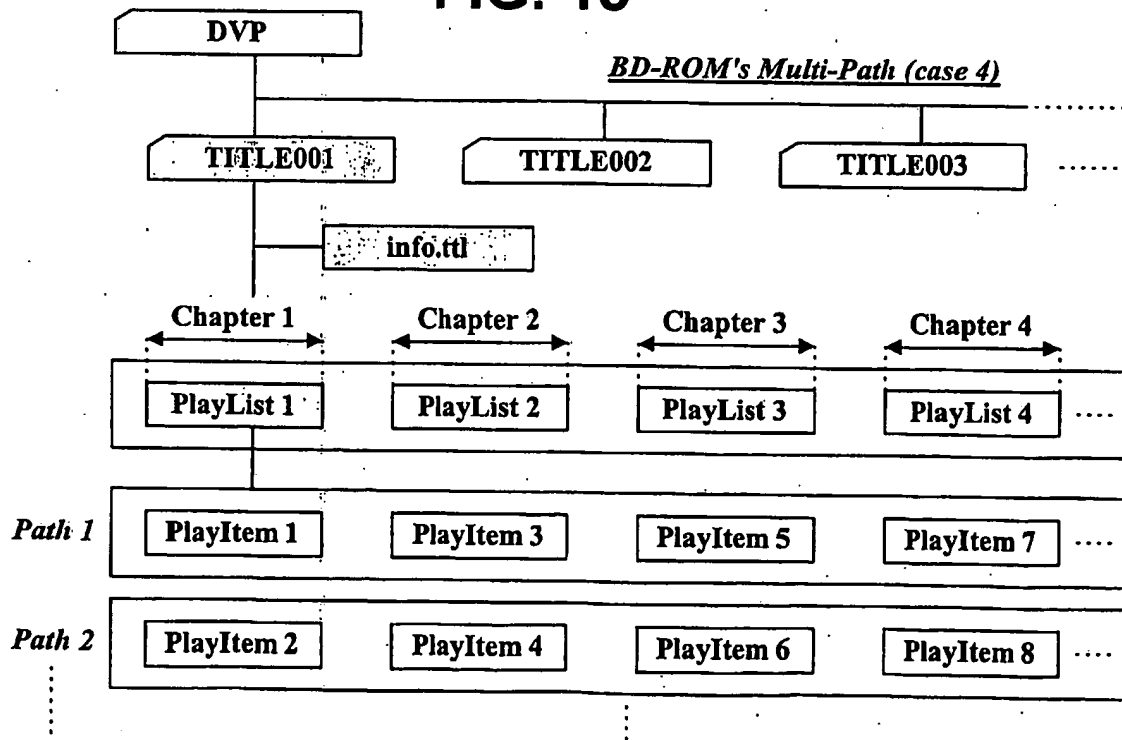
*.rpls - syntax

xxxxx.rpls {
version_number
.....
PlayListsMark0{
length
number_of_PlayList_marks
for(i=0;i<number_of_PlayList_marks;
i++){
.....
mark_type
mark_name_length
mark_ID
ref_to_PlayItem_id
mark_time_stamp
.....
}
}
}

FIG. 14

0x05 (Chapter-mark)

FIG. 15



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FIG. 16

*info.ttl (or *.ttl) - syntax*

info.ttl {
version_number
TableOfPlayLists_start_address
reserved_for_future_use
.
TableOfPlayLists{
length
number_of_PlayLists
for(I=0; i<number_of_PlayLists; i++){
PlayList_file_name
Chapter_entry_flag
}
}
:

**.rpls - syntax*

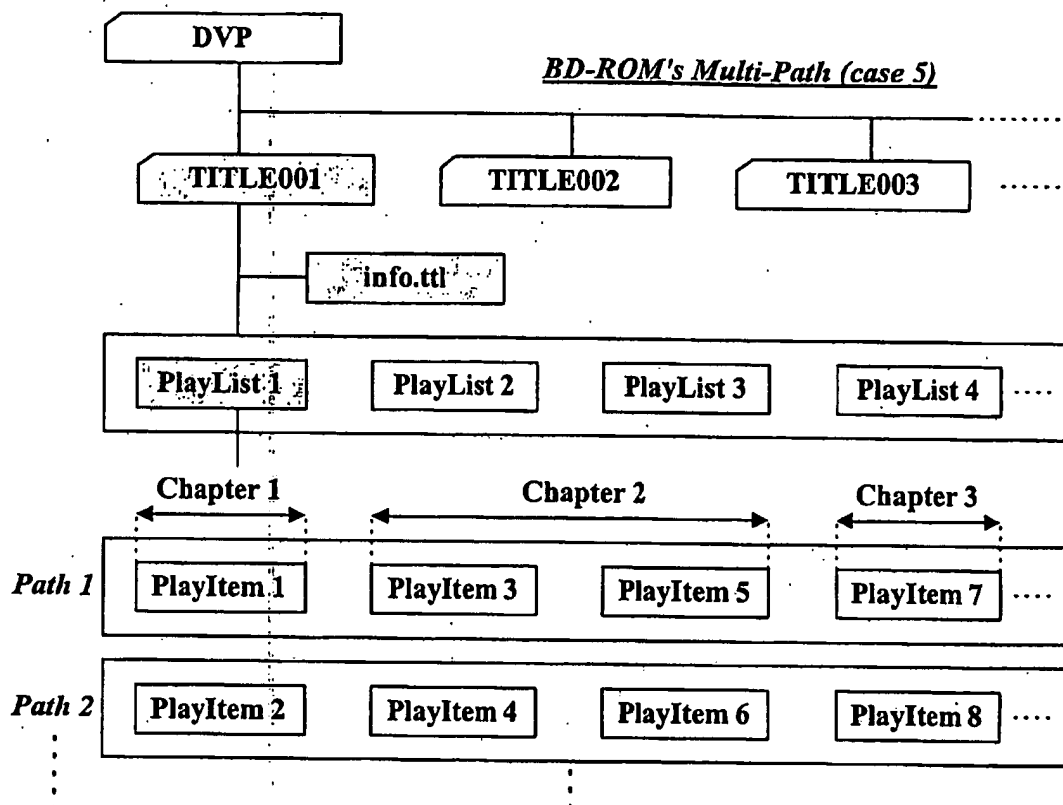
xxxxx.rpls {
version_number
.....
PlayList{
length
.....
number_of_PlayItems
for(i=0; i<number_of_PlayItems; i++){
PlayItem()
.....

FIG. 17

PlayItem{
length
.....
Path_number
.....

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FIG. 18

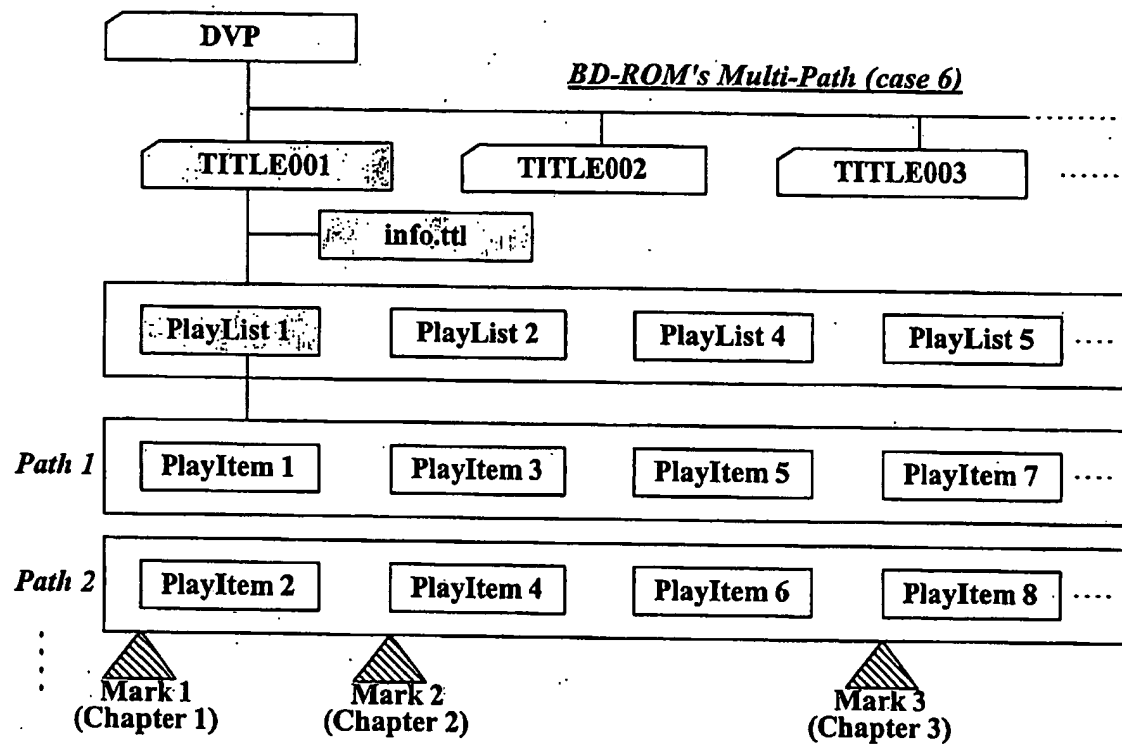


*.rpls - syntax

xxxxx.rpls {
version_number
.....
PlayList(){
length
.....
number_of_PlayItems
for(i=0; i<number_of_PlayItems; i++){
PlayItem()
.....



FIG. 19

PlayItem(){
length
.....
Chapter_entry_flag
Path_number
.....

FIG. 20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/KR03/01111

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC7 G11B 20/10 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC7 G11B 20/12 G11B 27/00 G11B 20/10 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Korean Patents and applications for inventions since 1975 Korean Utility models and applications for utility models since 1975 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2001-169246 A (SHARP) 22 JUNE 2001 See the whole document Family none	1-39
A	JP 2000-235779 A (NEC) 29 AUGUST 2000 See the whole document Family none	1-39
A	JP 10-40667 (TOSHIBA) 13 FEBRUARY 1998 See the abstract and Fig. 26 - 28 Family none	1-39
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 AUGUST 2003 (28.08.2003)		Date of mailing of the international search report 29 AUGUST 2003 (29.08.2003)
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